

*CALL to PRAYER* -

Thank God for how He made you.

Psalm 139:13-14

*Intro* - In a season of topical sermons...today we start a mini-series *Life, Death & Life after Death*. Three months ago, my teenage son died after a tragic motorcycle accident. On Christmas day I sat down and began to write some thoughts/questions/observations about human life & death. When you watch “*the life*” leave the body of your child it is very sobering and you ask yourself, ... *What was it that left the body?...Where did his life go?...What kind of life does he experience?...What exactly is human life?* This short series will be theological & philosophical, but it will also be personal & practical. (We are all humans...we will all die ...and we will all go somewhere when we do die ... but today, we start with our humanness.) We are living in a crisis of “*self*” in our society. We don’t seem to know who we are or what we are. Evolution teaches us that we are animals. Nihilism declares we are without meaning & purpose. Transgenderism tries to divide our inner self from our outer self. Naturalism tells us that the observable & physical is all there is. And materialism tries to persuade us “*our best life is now*” and *Y.O.L.O.* There is an onslaught in our society against Biblical anthropology. So today we address the question “*What are we as human beings?*” We will try to answer this from Scripture. “*Holy Bible Book divine...mine to tell me whence I came and mine to teach me what I am.*” #260

## *Genesis 2:7 - Life, Death & Life after Death (Part 1)*

### *The Dignity of Human Life*

- This world is teeming with life, but human life is special & different. (observably so)
  - Why is human life different & why does it have a dignity that other life doesn’t?
- Gen. 1:27
  - Human life has dignity because the Divine Image is stamped upon every human
  - Mankind has the capacity to reflect the image of the ONE who made us
    - creative...intellect...virtue...the kind of life humans have is distinct (eternal)
  - Murder defaces the IOG - Gen. 9:6                      Curses defame the IOG - James 3:9
  - Every human being is owed dignity as an image bearer                      Lev. 19:14
- People are more important than plants and animals.
  - There is an order of importance to the created order of life (Jonah 4:10-11)
    - Our society is warped as it elevates lower life and denigrates human life.
  - Mankind has dominion over the creatures and has a dignity others don’t
    - Road-kill may be sad but infinitely short of the tragedy of a human killed

### *The Unity of Human Life*

- God made us as a unified whole of different parts                      Gen. 2:7
  - *Formed from the dust*- (Body)                      *Breathed into the nostrils*- (Spirit)
    - *Became a living being*- (Soul)
  - Human beings are a “strand of three” that is not easily broken (Eccles. 4:12)
    - Zoe’s braided hair
  - I am drawn to the idea that the Triune God wove us together with 3 parts. (?IOG??)
  - 1 Thess. 5:23                      humans (in some sense) are 3 in 1                      3 substances woven in one person
  - God is 3 Persons in 1 true & living God. We are 1 unified person with 3 distinct parts of material & immaterial

dust formed

- This is the most obvious and visible aspect of human existence
- We are a body...but we are more than a body. Life is more than the body
  - There is more to us than meets the eye.
- The Bible describes the body as a: *tent, shell, clothing, tabernacle, temple*
  - We live in our body because life is infused to our body
- The soul & spirit animate the body and are intertwined with the body
- My Ben is no longer in his body but he is very much alive...just unwoven
  - Ben's soul & spirit are just unwoven from his body...for now
- The soul/spirit can live independently from the body, but the body cannot live independently from the soul & spirit.

➤ Soul

- Hebrew - *Nephesh* = a breathing creature                      life & breath go together
  - Animals are said to have “nephesh” (Gen. 1:24; 2:19; 9:10)
- Greek – *psuche*                      we get our word psyche (psychological)
- Humans are not just biological machines of either male or female
- We are not clones. We are infused with a psyche, we have personality & emotion
  - *“Why are you downcast, O my soul?”* (Ps. 42:5, 11)
  - There is a commonality to biology but unique individuality & personality
- Unity of body & soul                      There is a sinister spirit trying to rip the souls of people
  - Evil movement to foment a fabricated war between body & soul
  - *“my inside self is different than my outside self...it doesn’t correspond” “male soul in a female body”*
- Our bodies match our souls.                      They are a match made in heaven

➤ Spirit

- Greek – *Pneuma* = wind /spirit                      pneumatic tools (must have air going through to work)
- The spirit is life and life giving - John 6:63                      ???spirit seems to be soul 2.0 - 1 Cor. 15:45
- God, who forms our bodies also forms our spirit -                      Zech. 12:1
- Our spirits are the deepest part of man.                      1 Cor. 2:11
- Just as there is deep mystery in the Trinity (especially Holy Spirit) so too with our spirits
- God is Spirit <sup>John 4:24</sup> but one Person of the 3 is the Spirit (Spirit of God / Spirit of Christ)

- Distinction & dissection of soul & spirit

- Heb. 4:12
- It is difficult to dissect & distinguish but they are distinct. (I am not a skilled surgeon)
- Dividing soul & spirit is equated to dividing joint & marrow (thoughts/intentions)
- Marrow is life containing and joints give life bending
- Marrow produces blood cells that carry oxygen. The spirit is the marrow of life that carries the soul of life
- Soul & spirit are the life force infused to the body that animates the body.
- Soul & spirit are often used interchangeably for the immaterial part of humanity
  - The immaterial is what makes the material alive

➤ Ps. 139:13-14

## The Eternity of Human Life

- ❖ Eccles 3:11                      Mark 8:36                      Luke 12:19-20                      Matt. 10:28  
❖ There is more to you than meets the eye.    IOG                      you are made with a special/eternal kind of life  
❖ When your life leaves the body...where will it go?                      #340 - *He Hideth My Soul*